

August 17-19, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

WKZO 590 AM/Kalamazoo: The Lori Moore show: 36th District Court offers new program

Deborah Green, Region I Administrator for the State Court Administrative Office, speaks with Lori Moore regarding the new pre-hearing traffic ticket docket at Detroit's 36th District Court (6:32 minute podcast-click on "download episode").

[Podcast](#)

Also see:

Ingham County Legal News: Quicker resolutions on traffic tickets, more patrol officers on the road, are goals of new 36th District docket

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Majority of state contracts held with Michigan companies, analysis shows

"... The Lansing State Journal reviewed nearly 1,200 contracts overseen by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget, which houses the state's central procurement office. As of Aug. 1, those multiyear contracts were worth more than \$32 billion, covering everything from state employees' health insurance to vehicle maintenance to office supplies [and to janitorial work at the Michigan Hall of Justice and other state-owned buildings]."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Lansing State Journal: Tri-County firms well-represented in state services contracts

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Judge says Concord man who killed mom was insane

"A 19-year-old man who killed his mother will be returned to a state psychiatric center after being found not guilty by reason of insanity in Jackson County. [Jackson County Circuit Judge Thomas Wilson] made the determination Friday based on the findings of an expert. David Grow's attorney didn't object, nor did assistant prosecutor Jennifer Walker."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Jackson Citizen Patriot: Concord teen found not guilty by reason of insanity in death of mother

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Judge rejects challenge to West Michigan gas leases

"A judge has dismissed a lawsuit by opponents of oil and gas drilling on state land in western Michigan, saying the challenge to possible 'fracking' came too early. The 'mere act' of the state approving leases doesn't mean there's an imminent threat to the environment, said Barry County Circuit Judge Amy McDowell."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

MLive.com: Anti-fracking lawsuit over game reserve leases dismissed by Barry County judge

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Law school enrollment down amid worries over job market

"From the outside, fall 2010 looked like another chapter in the Thomas M. Cooley Law School's explosive growth. Enrollment topped 4,000 students, spread across four campuses in Michigan. The newest, in Ann Arbor, had opened the year before. And though it's a nonprofit, Cooley was pulling in money, beginning that fiscal year with \$90 million in net assets and closing it with \$111 million."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Lansing State Journal: Cooley Law School weathering decline in enrollment

[Full story](#)

SBM Blog: Cooley's Dean Talks Standards, Job Prospects, And Tuition

[Full story](#)

Bridge Magazine: Why Michigan citizens should care about money in judicial politics

"Rich Robinson is executive director of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network, a non-profit, non-partisan campaign finance watchdog group in Lansing. Here are his thoughts about judges who contribute big bucks to political campaigns and the role big money plays in judicial elections."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Bridge Magazine: The Giving Judge: Which comes first, impartial justice or partisan politics?

[Full story](#)

Daily Press & Argus: Juveniles deserve a shot at parole

The editorial states "Michigan's practice of automatically sentencing some juvenile criminals to life sentences without the possibility of parole was shameful, and it didn't deserve any reprieve when the Supreme Court ruled it constitutionally cruel and unusual last year.... New hearings for Michigan's juvenile lifers won't mean parole for all of them. They'd still need to meet the standard for release: If they're deemed threats or haven't proved sufficiently rehabilitated, they'll stay in prison."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: Court rules right-to-work law applies to state workers

"Michigan's right-to-work law applies to 35,000 state employees, a divided state appeals court ruled last Thursday in the first major legal decision on the much-debated measure eight months after it passed. Judges voted 2-1 to reject a lawsuit filed by unionized workers who make up more than two-thirds of all state employees."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Oakland County Legal News.

Also see:

SBM Blog: The Court of Appeals Right To Work Decision: Cutting To The Chase

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: Nominations sought for Daniel J. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award recognition

"Nominations are open for the Daniel J. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award, jointly sponsored by the Michigan Supreme Court and Michigan Department of Human Services, to honor exceptional service to Michigan's children. The award was established in honor of the late Daniel J. Wright of Grand Ledge, an

attorney and longtime leader in child support and child welfare reform.... [T]he deadline is September 27, 2013."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Nominations sought for Daniel J. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award; honor recognizes outstanding work in support of Michigan families, children

[Press release](#)

Grand Rapids Business Journal: Jane Markey blazes judicial trail

"The Honorable Jane Markey does not allow status quo and conventional wisdom to determine her future. She blazed trails for women by enrolling in law school in 1978, when women entering legal studies were a distinct minority."

[Full story](#)

Lansing State Journal: Solution needed for state's mental health problem

State Rep. Tom Leonard writes "...Recognizing that the corrections system is not the proper place for many of these individuals, 16 specialized mental health courts have been established in Michigan. These courts are designed to provide non-violent, mentally ill offenders with treatment rather than jail time.... Currently, there are no statewide guidelines on how future courts should be established. For that reason, House Bills 4694-4697 were introduced in May, building a blueprint for specialty courts."

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Food allergies a 'hidden disability' in schools for increasing number of students

"Recent cases in both state appeals and federal trial courts around Michigan over life-threatening food allergies have drawn both attention and criticism over how schools deal with the condition. Statistics from the Centers for Disease Control show that 4 percent of school-age children in America have a food allergy, and the number of children with food allergies increased by 18 percent between 1997 and 2007."

[Full story](#)